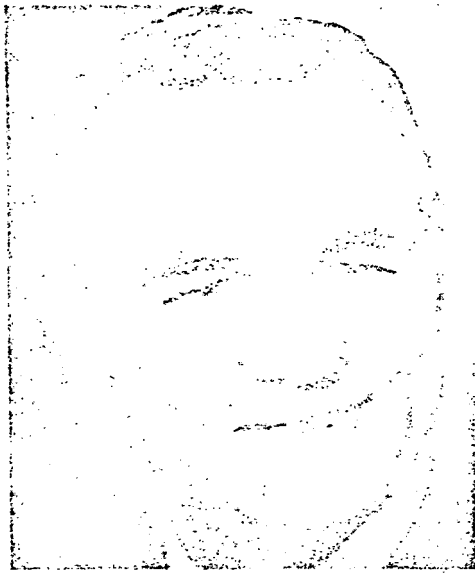


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TO THE POINT  
22 July 1977



Turner: no more "dirty tricks"

UNITED STATES

## Intelligence purge

rumours are

'exaggerated'

Despite less-than-convincing White House denials a wide-ranging purge of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) seems to be on the cards. Informed Washington sources said last week's resignation - or sacking - of former caretaker director Henry Knoche could herald the departure of a score of subordinates including those chiefly responsible for "dirty tricks" operations, whom new director Admiral Stansfield Turner would like to get rid of.

The apparently forced resignation of 52-year-old Knoche, a CIA veteran of 24 years, in charge of day-to-day operations since 1976, came as even more of a shock as President Jimmy Carter had decorated him earlier this year for "distinguished civilian services." He sat at the director's desk in the period between the departure in January of George Bush and the April arrival of Admiral Turner - second choice after Theodore Sorensen who stepped down after Senate opposition to his nomination by Carter.

When asked about rumours of a major purge at the Agency, White House spokesman Jody Powell confined himself to terming them "exaggerated". If the reports prove well-founded the sackings would reflect the malaise which has been obvious for some time not only in the CIA but in the other branches of the "intelligence community", including the National Security Agency, the Pentagon intelligence department and the Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) which is itself looking for a new director.

Turner, who was at the Annapolis Naval Academy at the same time as Carter, has a reputation as a strongman. He is now trying to

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organise and restructure intelligence operations, but Defence Secretary Harold Brown is against the idea. He maintains that excessive centralisation under the CIA director would stifle independent assessment of intelligence and give the president a one-sided analysis of the world situation.

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